# Employee Speech, Expression and Social Networking

## 231.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy is intended to address issues associated with employee use of social networking sites and to provide guidelines for the regulation and balancing of employee speech and expression with the legitimate needs of the Office.

Nothing in this policy is intended to prohibit or infringe upon any communication, speech or expression that is protected or privileged under law. This includes speech and expression protected under state or federal constitutions as well as labor or other applicable laws. For example, this policy does not limit an employee from speaking as a private citizen, including acting as an authorized member of a recognized bargaining unit, about matters of public concern, such as misconduct or corruption.

Employees are encouraged to consult with their supervisor regarding any questions arising from the application or potential application of this policy.

See Sheriff's Office Policy--Operations Manual, Policy OM 1031

### 231.1.1 APPLICABILITY

This policy applies to all forms of communication including, but not limited to, film, video, print media, public or private speech, use of all internet services, including the World Wide Web, email, file transfer, remote computer access, news services, social networking, social media, instant messaging/texting, blogs, forums, video and other file-sharing sites.

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